



## WHY DO I NEED COLLEGE? AND, CAN I REALLY GO?

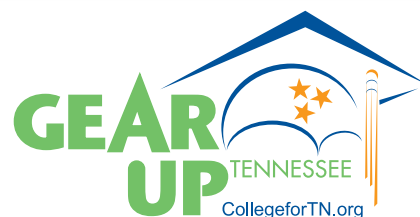
Whatever your goals in life are, college can help get you there. Going to college exposes you to a variety of experiences and people, making you a well-rounded, better-educated individual, earning you the respect of others. It also gives you more options, therefore allowing you to control your future.

College is an attainable goal. Talk to the adults in your life about continuing your education. Make sure your family members, your teachers, your counselor and your religious leaders all know that you want to go to college, and ask them to help get you there. Let them know that you are dedicated to taking the right courses, making the grades and staying out of trouble. Ask them to support and encourage you by helping you study, fill out financial aid forms and research schools that interest you. You can do it! You just have to put your mind to it!



## WHERE CAN I GO FOR ADDITIONAL HELP?

For additional information about preparing,  
planning, applying and paying for college, visit  
**CollegeforTN.org** or call 1-800-342-1663.



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# STUDENTS

## PREPARE, PLAN & APPLY FOR COLLEGE







# HIGHER EDUCATION... PUT YOUR MIND TO IT.

## COLLEGE IS A GREAT PATH TO A REWARDING CAREER AND GETTING THERE IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

Working together with you and your high-school counselor, [CollegeforTN.org](http://CollegeforTN.org) will help you plan ahead to meet admissions requirements and get answers to commonly asked questions. CollegeforTN.org is here to help throughout the entire process... from selecting a college, applying for admission, and finding financial assistance. With information about more than 80 different colleges and universities across Tennessee right at your fingertips, CollegeforTN.org makes finding the perfect college and career a lot easier on the brain.

## SMART TIPS FOR GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE

### GEAR UP TN OFFERS YOU SOME GENERAL GUIDELINES AND RULES TO REMEMBER:

- Grades are important, but colleges are more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than outstanding grades in easy ones.
- Start an academic resume. Many college applications require one.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities such as speech, debate, band, communications, sports and drama. They prove you are well-rounded with diverse interests, and they show your ability to work with others and succeed.
- Pay attention to all dates and deadlines – ACT/SAT test dates, FAFSA, admissions, scholarship applications, etc.
- Most colleges require three to four years of studies in math, English, science and social studies **EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.**
- Take the EXPLORE (8th grade), PLAN (10th grade) and the ACT tests. Each test helps you prepare for the next phase of your academic career. Talk to your teachers and your high school counselor about your results.
- Try to visit several college campuses and/or attend a college fair.
- Attend a financial aid workshop to learn more about all the resources that can help you pay for college.
- Talk to your high school counselor about institutional, local, and private scholarships. Also, check with churches, banks and companies in your community to see if they offer scholarships.
- Most colleges require at least two years of the same foreign language.
- Apply for admissions and institutional aid at several colleges. Don't limit yourself to just one.
- Be aware that college admission officers pay close attention to your GPA, class rank, AP and other honors-level courses and standardized test scores.
- Volunteer for community organizations. It allows you to gain experience, observe different work environments and shows your desire to reach out to others.

## START PREPARING, PLANNING AND APPLYING EARLY.

It's never too early to start planning for college. In fact, you should start as early as the eighth grade! Check out the blackboard below to help get you started because preparing early can help you get into the college of your choice, and it makes applying much easier. Talk to your high school counselor about required classes, extracurricular activities, visiting a college campus, and financial aid.

## FIND THE COLLEGE/CAREER TRACK THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

What are your interests? What are your talents? Which careers do you think fit your personality? Answering questions like these will help you choose the right college/career track. CollegeforTN.org provides a career matching assistant and a list of careers that can help you determine professions that best suit your personality and goals. Once you pick a profession, you're provided with a list of colleges that offer degrees in that field. Talk to your high school counselor about where you think you want to go to college and what careers you hope to pursue. He/she can work with you to schedule campus tours and job shadowing opportunities.

